

Spread Footings

When the Office of Engineering Geology of the Division of New Technology, Materials and Research recommends spread footings for foundation support at bent or pier footings, the specified allowable foundation pressure is the GROSS allowable pressure that can be applied at the elevation specified. The weight of the superimposed fill from the bottom of footing elevation to finished grade needs to be considered as an imposed load when computing design pressures.

At abutments and retaining walls the specified allowable foundation pressure is the GROSS allowable increase in pressure at the elevation specified. All imposed loads above the bottom of footing should be considered when calculating design pressures.

The foundation report should clearly state whether the allowable footing pressure is NET or GROSS.

The 'FOOT' computer program requires the NET allowable pressure as input and computes a GROSS allowable pressure based on the amount of cover and considers the overburden and column/footing weights as imposed loads.

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Supersedes Memo to Designers 4-1 dated April 1992